CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY		USSR/East Germany/Hungary	REPORT			
SUBJECT	1.	Comments on the Change in Leadership in the Soviet Union	DATE DISTR.	18 March 1955		
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- As of 23 February 1955, various probably planted reports lead to the conclusion that Soviet foreign policy is basically unchanged. A certain tactical change is noted in the absence of any mention of the Molotov plan. Instead, there is emphasis on a neutralized reunited Germany, obviously to influence the Bonn debate. A Polish politician allegedly stated that Poland would favor a reunited Germany to ease the economic load which the GDR represents for Poland. The basic Soviet aim is still seen as opposite to reunification, meaning closer coordination among East Germany, Poland, and Czechoslovakia.
- 2. The Soviets will reportedly soon launch renewed notes to the West about German reunification, this time with the tone of an ultimatum.
- Despite Soviet bluster, the door to negotiation with the West is being left open.
- Soviets appear to desire to play an honest broker role in Formosa, similar to their Geneva stand, judging from Statements on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Soviet-Chinese alliance.
- There are no reports of any further blockage measures in Berlin, but in the background systematic preparations are believed to be continuing.
- In Hungary, Nagy has been the protagonist of the new course, leading to conjecture that his current illness may be political.

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